

## 1 Samuel 22:1a - Thursday, June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2014

- While we are in 1 Samuel 22, we're going to do something a lit bit different tonight in our study through the Bible and take only half a verse.
- This because of the profound personal application that's packed into the first part of the first verse that's set before us here in God's Word.
- I trust you'll see the method behind the madness, as it were, once we jump into what I suppose could be considered as a topical teaching.

- If you were to put a title on this teaching it would probably be something along the lines of, "When Everything in My Life is Falling Apart."
- It probably goes without saying, but such is the case in the life of David, as evidenced by his whole world having been turned upside down.
- It's for this reason I would kindly ask that you indulge me for our study tonight as I share with you that which the Lord has put on my heart.

(1a) David therefore departed from there and escaped to the cave of Adullam.

- One has to wonder what David must be thinking right about now given that this isn't the first time he's had to escape, nor will it be the last.
- I wonder if David is just now beginning to feel the crushing weight under the unspeakable guilt from his horrific lie in the previous chapter.
- Its no wonder he seeks out this cave of Adullam as he escapes yet again from Saul who he now knows without a doubt is out to kill him.

- Let's first look at some of the reasons as to why it is that David would seek this cave of Adullam in order to escape from a murderous Saul.
- One reason I believe he sought it out is because he knew the area very well by virtue of how close in proximity it was to where he grew up.
- He may have went there instead of going directly home thinking Saul would likely be posturing himself to follow him there and kill his family.

- Perhaps more importantly, the main reason David went there might be that God was leading him there in His delivering of David from Gath.
- We know from the Psalms that David cried out to God for deliverance, which is why God hearkened to his cry delivering David from death.
- I point this out because no matter our failure, God is always faithful to hearken unto the voice of our cry and deliver us from imminent peril.

- This brings us to the first thing we can do when everything in our life seems to be falling apart, like David cry out to the Lord for deliverance.
- Actually, this sort of dovetails into our second one, which is to know that God knows of our desperate need for both deliverance and refuge.
- Let me explain, in delivering David out of Gath, God knew David needed a place of refuge, which is what Adullam means, "cave of refuge."

- In other words this was a place of or if you prefer cave of refuge, which was arguably the best place for him after all that's happened to him.
- The point being is that God knows our every need, which reminds me of the comforting words penned in a famous and classic hymn of old.
- What I'm speaking of is the chorus of "Great is Thy Faithfulness," which says, "All I have needed Thy hand hath provided... Lord unto me!"

- Simply put, God knew that David needed deliverance from his enemy, and, God knew that David needed a place of refuge from his enemy.
- This should be of great encouragement to everyone of us who have been through so much and may be prone to give in to discouragement.
- I think of all that David has been through in just the last few years since the Prophet Samuel came to his house and anointed him as King.

- Namely, that of the high highs of God giving him the miraculous victory over the strongest giant of a champion amongst all the Philistine's,
- And, the low lows of having a contract out on his life, which forced him to run for his life, from the most powerful ruler over all the Israelites.
- And, everything in between, like being forced from his home, his wife, and the most loyal of friends he will ever have for the rest of his life.

- If you think about it, everything is not only falling apart in David's life everything that's falling apart is contradicting God's call on David's life.
- This is our third thing to do when we find ourselves in our cave of Adullam, remain steadfast in spite of your trial contradicting God's call.
- I think of Joseph and how he remained steadfast for 17-years in spite of everything he went through contradicting the dream God gave him.

- I'm of the belief the common denominator between Joseph and David remaining steadfast was they saw God's fingerprints along the way.
- For Joseph, it was the dreams and the interpretation of those dreams along the way, and for David it was God's deliverance along the way.
- More specifically, whether it was Joseph's dreams or David's deliverance, they interpreted God's fingerprints, as God hadn't forsaken them.

- This is our fourth thing to hold on to when everything is falling apart, no matter how difficult it may be along the way God is always with you.
- Often times, we may feel so all alone, so much so, that we are prone to give into despair, which skews our objectivity and feeds our doubts.
- When that happens, we start believing that God is no longer with us, or even that God must be mad at us, which is why He's punishing us.

- While sometimes God may deem it necessary to discipline us it may be instead that God is simply getting us alone so as to encourage us.
- Here's what I'm thinking, God may have wanted to get David alone in the Cave of Adullam because of where Adullam was actually located.
- Here's why I say that, Archaeologists suggest that the Cave of Adullam was close in proximity to the place where David defeated Goliath.

- You probably already know where I'm going with this so suffice it to say, that this is our fifth one, which is to recount past victories in defeat.
- This was God's way of having David go back to the place of God's greatest and grandest work in his life here-to-fore so to encourage him.
- Like with the parallel between David and Joseph I also see a parallel between David and Jacob when everything in his life was falling apart.

**Genesis 35:1 NKJV** Then God said to Jacob, "Arise, go up to Bethel and dwell there; and make an altar there to God, who appeared to you when you fled from the face of Esau your brother."

- Like David, Jacob failed miserably lying to brother Esau, who like Saul with David, has a contract out on Jacob's life in his effort to kill him.
- It's because of this that God tells Jacob to get up and go back to Bethel, the very place where Jacob had first met God some 30 years prior.
- In other words, like David at Adullam, and Jacob at Bethel, God may take us back to the place of prior victory when in the place of despair.

- This brings us to our sixth thing to do when in the cave of refuge, as it were, just stay where you're at and wait for the Lord to speak to you.
- By that I mean, God may choose to speak while we're still in the cave of refuge and not once we're out of that cave as we often times hope.
- It's important to understand how it may be in those caves of Adullam that God has our undivided attention in order to speak into our lives.

- There's yet another parallel, this time with Elijah, who also hid in a cave when like David with Saul, Jezebel had a contract out on his life.
- With Elijah, God had his undivided attention vis-à-vis the still small voice of the Holy Spirit speaking to him while he remained in the cave.
- With David God had his undivided attention vis-à-vis the still small voice of the Holy Spirit speaking to him in Psalms when he's in the cave.

**Psalms 142:1-7 NKJV A Contemplation Of David. A Prayer When He Was in the Cave.** I cry out to the LORD with my voice; With my voice to the LORD I make my supplication. (2) I pour out my complaint before Him; I declare before Him my trouble. (3) When my spirit was overwhelmed within me, Then You knew my path. In the way in which I walk They have secretly set a snare for me. (4) Look on *my* right hand and see, For *there is* no one who acknowledges me; Refuge has failed me; No one cares for my soul. (5) I cried out to You, O LORD: I said, "You *are* my refuge, My portion in the land of the living. (6) Attend to my cry, For I am brought very low; Deliver me from my persecutors, For they are stronger than I. (7) Bring my soul out of prison, That I may praise Your name; The righteous shall surround me, For You shall deal bountifully with me."

**Psalms 57:1-11 NKJV To the Chief Musician. Set to "Do Not Destroy." a Michtam of David When He Fled from Saul into the Cave.** Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me! For my soul trusts in You; And in the shadow of Your wings I will make my refuge, Until *these* calamities have passed by. (2) I will cry out to God Most High, To God who performs *all things* for me. (3) He shall send from heaven and save me; He reproaches the one who would swallow me up. Selah. God shall send forth His mercy and His truth. (4) My soul *is* among lions; I lie *among* the sons of men Who are set on fire, Whose teeth *are* spears and arrows, And their tongue a sharp sword. (5) Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; *Let* Your glory *be* above all the earth. (6) They have prepared a net for my steps; My soul is bowed down; They have dug a pit before me; Into the midst of it they *themselves* have fallen. Selah (7) My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast; I will sing and give praise. (8) Awake, my glory! Awake, lute and harp! I will awaken the dawn. (9) I will praise You, O Lord, among the peoples; I will sing to You among the nations. (10) For Your mercy reaches unto the heavens, And Your truth unto the clouds. (11) Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; *Let* Your glory *be* above all the earth.

- This brings us to our seventh and final thing to do while remaining in the cave of refuge and everything in our life seems to be falling apart.
- At the risk of sounding a bit dorky, we need to stay under the spout where God's blessing comes out, which actually comes from a hymn.
- Let me explain, we not only need to stay in that place to receive God's blessing we need to stay in that place of anticipating God's blessing.

- The aforementioned parallel between David and Elijah speaks to this very thing by virtue of how Elijah especially, thought it was the end.
- What David and Elijah don't realize at this juncture in their lives is that it's really just the beginning of what God will do for them yet future.
- For Elijah, it's a fiery chariot taking him to heaven, and a future appearance with Moses and Jesus Himself at the Mount of Transfiguration.

- For David, it's an eternal house built for him from heaven and the future lineage of Jesus Himself from which the Savior of the world comes.
- Here's the bottom line, the cave in which we find ourselves, may in fact be that very spout from which God's blessing yet future comes out.
- At the risk of sounding somewhat cliché I'll take it a step further and suggest our best days may lie ahead of the day in the cave of Adullam.